



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

July 27, 2011

Mr. Wil Okabe, President  
Hawaii State Teachers Association  
1200 Ala Kapuna Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Dear *Wil* President Okabe,

In response to your faxed letter from July 26, 2011, I want to make a few items clear.

The State has not refused to continue to bargain with the HSTA. As HSTA's complaint goes through the legal process, we remain more than willing to receive, consider and timely respond to any new proposals from the HSTA. The problem, as I see it, is that the HSTA has not offered any new proposals for discussion.

The State and HSTA worked through 16 formal bargaining sessions, a detailed presentation by the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, 2 separate meetings you had with members of the State's negotiating team, and 3 meetings you had with me. When the state offered mediation, the HSTA refused.

With the HSTA's rejection of our tentative agreement, no counter offer for the state to consider, and the school year looming, we implemented our last, best, and final offer in the best interest of Hawaii's students and teachers.

Finally, in response to your letter, there is no valid comparison between what has so far transpired in the collective bargaining process and what transpired in the budget process.

Wil, in every comment I have made, I have spoken of my respect for you and the HSTA negotiating team and my gratitude to you for bringing your knowledge and experience to bear in every discussion. I believe we need to be positive and productive.

Why don't we set legal complaints aside and focus on working together for the benefit of our students, our teachers, and our schools. Right now, my aim remains on moving forward and preparing Hawaii for an outstanding school year.

*Sincerely,*  
*Neil Abercrombie*  
Neil Abercrombie  
Governor, State of Hawaii